



United States Air Force Museum

Public Affairs Division Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio 45433-7102

Phone (937) 255-4704, ext. 332, 330 or 331



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE MUSEUM STORY IDEAS FOR MEDIA

First-ever permanent public display of a B-2 stealth bomber: In December 2003, the U.S. Air Force Museum became the first place anywhere in the world to put on permanent daily public display a B-2 stealth bomber. Learn about this aircraft's unique background, unusual restoration phase and how it came to find a home at the museum.

Unrivalled collection of U.S. presidential aircraft: Explore perhaps the most historically significant U.S. presidential aircraft, President Kennedy's "Air Force One" located at the U.S. Air Force Museum. Discover the aircraft's rich and poignant history from Kennedy to Clinton, or learn about other presidential aircraft that flew FDR, Truman and Eisenhower.

Major expansion underway: The world's largest and oldest military aviation museum is growing rapidly, opening a 200,000 square-foot third building in 2003 and preparing to open a Missile Gallery in 2004. And that's not all. Future phases call for a Presidential Gallery, Space Gallery and Education Center. Find out where the Air Force's national museum is headed.

Contemporary exhibit design takes hold: dramatizing history for its 1.35 million annual visitors is the museum's central mission. Through a contemporary approach to exhibit design, the museum is incorporating mannequins, sound effects, theatrical lighting and authentic personal items to create powerful, compelling exhibits that convey the inherently human dimension of the Air Force and military aviation story. Discover how the museum creates such exhibits, from concept to opening.

Restoring aircraft to their former glory: When the museum obtains an aircraft for display, it usually isn't in display condition. This is where the expert craftsmen of the museum's restoration division come in. Performing minor touchups and major overhauls, the restoration staff can transform a badly corroded fuselage into a glistening, brilliant, museum-quality aircraft. The result is always a war bird that looks like it just rolled off the assembly line. Learn the restoration secrets involved.

Major-scale, high-profile events: There's more than just aircraft at the U.S. Air Force Museum. There is also a growing variety of major public events. Recent examples of high-visibility outdoor events include a presidential visit for a Fourth of July celebration, hot air balloons, blimps, vintage replica World War I aircraft, radio-controlled aircraft and much more. Indoor events include concerts, guest lecturers and special commemorative ceremonies.

Rare, one-of-a-kind aircraft: Visitors can see the awe-inspiring B-36 bomber, the world's only remaining XB-70 Valkyrie, and the B-29 Bockscar that dropped the atomic bomb on Nagasaki, Japan,

to help end World War II. Or they can view modern favorites such as the F/A-22 prototype, the F-117 stealth fighter, the B-2 stealth bomber, the B-1 bomber and unmanned aircraft.